

## **DGP-Net: Cultivating a Spirit of Peer Assistance and Problem-Solving - Kemal Dervis**

**Sharing knowledge** is an essential aspect of UNDP's work. It is especially important in promoting capacity development, organizational learning, and, south-south collaboration. The UNDP Strategic Plan (2008-11) emphasizes that UNDP must learn from its past and leverage its core competencies and unique capabilities, including its extensive knowledge network, universal presence and decentralized structure.



I am, therefore, very pleased that the Democratic Governance Practice Network (DGP-Net) is this year celebrating 10 years of knowledge-sharing across the organization. The network originated in 1998 as a mailing group of governance practitioners across the globe who, of their own accord, shared lessons and advice, demonstrating that colleagues in Peru had something to share with colleagues in Benin and Bangladesh.

UNDP recognizes that it is what we know, both as individuals and, crucially, as an organization, that gives us our comparative advantage. Organizational culture, trust, and individual incentives are crucial to promoting the kind of knowledge sharing that helps us as an organization to learn and grow from our accumulated experience. The DGP-Net – along with UNDP's other knowledge networks - has done a great deal to help UNDP overcome barriers to sharing knowledge, experience and ideas, and helped cultivate a spirit of peer assistance and problem-solving.

I would like to congratulate the all members of the DGP-Net and its Facilitation Team, and hope the Practice Networks will continue to break new ground in 2009 and beyond.

Wishing you and your families happy holidays.

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